European Economic History

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**Website:** http://faculty.fullerton.edu/jrubin/  
**Office Hours:** Monday, 10:30-12:30pm, or by appointment

**Prerequisites**  
Economics 201

**Required Texts**  

We will also read academic articles. You can download these articles on JSTOR.org using any computer hooked into the CSUF network or through the CSUF library website.

**Course Requirements**  
The course will consist of one mid-term examination, a final examination, and one term paper. There will be no make-up examinations. If the mid-term is missed, the final will carry the additional weight if and only if a valid excuse (e.g., doctor’s note) is presented.

The term paper is due in class on the date listed below. I will accept papers without penalty up through the end of the class period. Any papers turned in after this time will be accepted, but will carry a penalty of 10 points per day (unless, of course, you have a valid, documented excuse).

**Course Description**  
This course analyzes the evolution of European economic institutions and the development of industry, commerce, and finance from the fall of the Roman Empire to the Industrial Revolution. It traces the historical path which culminated in European economic hegemony.

**Course Learning Goals**  
This course is aimed at facilitating critical thinking. This class will provide: 1) a general overview of important events and periods in the economic history of Europe; 2) an analysis of important historical events from an economic viewpoint. The term paper should include both of these elements, especially the latter.

**Academic Dishonesty**  
Academic dishonesty includes such things as cheating, inventing false information or citations, plagiarism, and helping someone else commit an act of academic dishonesty. It usually involves an attempt by a student to show possession of a level of knowledge or skill which he or she does not possess.

Cheating is defined as the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for work by the use of any dishonest, deceptive, fraudulent or unauthorized means. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to:

1) Using notes or aids or the help of other students on tests and examinations in ways other than those expressly permitted by the instructor
2) **Plagiarism** as defined below, tampering with the grading procedures, and collaborating with others on any assignment where such collaboration is expressly forbidden by an instructor.

**Plagiarism** is defined as the act of taking the specific substance of another and offering it as one’s own without giving credit to the source. When sources are used, acknowledgment of the original author or source must be made following standard scholarly practice.


**Withdrawal and Drop Policy**

See your California State University Catalogue.

**Grading**

There are 100 possible points. The grading breakdown is as follows:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>40 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
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<td>Final Examination</td>
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There will be no make-up exams, and no early or late sittings for exams. +/- grading will be employed. I will grade on a ten-point scale:

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<tr>
<th>Numeric Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>93-96</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>80-82</td>
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**Term Paper**

**Assignment:** To investigate some event in European economic history. Your paper should focus on an event between the fall of the (Western) Roman Empire and the beginning of World War II. You may use papers or books read in this class as sources, but you must cite at least three outside sources. It should be 6-10 pages long.

**Expectations:** The purpose of this exercise is to apply economic logic to some event in European economic history. An economic analysis is mandatory – a mere description of events will not suffice. Your paper should search for a causal link between two or more phenomena. That is, you should construct a well structured economic hypothesis and argue its merits using historical information.
You will be required to stop by my office at least once two weeks prior to the due date to discuss your paper topic. This office visit will count towards your class participation grade.

**Students with Disabilities**
The University requires students with disabilities to register with the Office of Disabled Student Services (DSS), located in UH-101 and at (657) 278 – 3117, in order to receive prescribed accommodations appropriate to their disability. Students requesting accommodations should inform the instructor during the first week of classes about any disability or special needs that may require specific arrangements/accommodations related to attending class sessions, completing course assignments, writing papers or quizzes/tests/examinations. For more, see: [http://www.fullerton.edu/disabledservices/](http://www.fullerton.edu/disabledservices/)

**University Emergency Policy**
Link: [http://www.fullerton.edu/emergencypreparedness/ep_students.html](http://www.fullerton.edu/emergencypreparedness/ep_students.html)

EMERGENCY CALLS DIAL 9-1-1
All campus phones and cell phones on campus reach the University Police Department;
Non-emergency line: (657) 278-2515

**Mihaylo College of Business and Economics Assessment Statement**
The main purpose of the degree program at the Mihaylo College of Business & Economics (College) at Cal State Fullerton is to provide you with the knowledge and skills that prepare you for a successful career in business. In order to assist us in achieving this goal, we will use a number of assessment tools to track your progress throughout the College curriculum. Please expect to participate in College assessment activities in several of your courses while at CSU, Fullerton. As you do so, you will assist us in identifying our program’s strengths and weaknesses as well as areas for potential improvement. In other words, you are making an important investment in the value of your degree.

**Course Outline**
This is a very tentative schedule and is subject to change at any time. All due dates and examination dates will not be changed, however.

I. WHAT IS ECONOMIC HISTORY?

**January 24:**
Introduction

**January 26:**
Review of European History using political maps, 300-2000 (http://www.euratlas.net/history/europe/)

**January 31:**

II. AN INTRODUCTION TO TRADITIONAL ECONOMIES

**February 2:**
III. THE EARLY MEDIEVAL ECONOMY

February 14:

February 16:
_Agriculture – The Manorial System_
Class CANCELED – Please read and be ready to discuss the following article:

February 21: President’s Day (Campus Closed)

February 23:
_Agriculture – Risk and Market Failure_

February 28:
_Craft Guilds_

March 2: Term Paper Assigned

March 2:
_Trade and Exchange_

March 7:

March 9:
March 14:
Law, Exchange, and Comparison with the Islamic World

March 16:

MIDTERM EXAMINATION:
TUESDAY, MARCH 21

March 23:
Exam Results, Discussion of Current Events

March 28, 30:
SPRING BREAK

IV. THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD

April 4:
Institutional Change in Capital Markets

April 6:
Urbanization and Economic Growth

April 11:
Technology in Broad Perspective
Mokyr (1990), Chapters 1, 4

V. THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

April 13:
Overview and Technology of the Industrial Revolution
North (1981), Chapters 12-13

April 18:
Mokyr (1990), Chapters 5, 7

April 20:
Mokyr (1990), Chapter 10

April 25:
Organization, Labor Intensity and Productivity Growth

**April 27:**
*Social and Economic Consequences of Industrialization*

**May 2:**

**May 4:**
*The Spread of Economic Growth*

**May 4: Term Paper Due**

**May 9, 11:**
In-class Review

**FINAL EXAMINATION:**
**MONDAY, MAY 16 AT 2:30PM**